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April 12, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Group (CI)
2 p.m., Thursday, April 11, 1963

PRESENT: Governor Harriman, Mr. Bell, Mr. McCone, Mr. Murrow,
Mr. McGeorge Bundy vice Mr. Forrestal, Mr. Carroll, vice
Mr. Gilpatric, General Krulak vice General Taylor, Mr.
Nolan vice the Attorney General

Mr. Koren and Mr. Janow were present for Items 1 and 2.

Mr. Cottrell was present for Item 3.

Mr. Martin was present for Items 3 and 4.

Mr. Maechling was present for the meeting.

1. Southeast Asia Status Report

The Group was informed that some five million dollars has been restored to the MAP program in Cambodia. The problems recently raised in the handling of the joint US-Vietnamese counterinsurgency funds appear to be diminishing based on late reports from the field. However, it was noted that some compromise may be necessary on the number of U.S. personnel involved in the handling of these funds.

2. Thailand Developments

The Group reviewed the intelligence estimate on the threat of Communist insurgency in Thailand, and agreed that it presented a balanced view of the situation. Mr. Bell suggested, and the Group agreed, that similar estimates prepared on a regular basis would be helpful in evaluating the situation.

Mr. Carroll reviewed the Military Assistance Programs and stressed that emphasis has been placed on equipment to meet internal security needs, rather than to enhance the conventional capability of the armed forces and to assist AID programs where necessary. In response to a question by the Chairman, Mr. Carroll stated that he believed adequate counterinsurgency training is being given to the Thai military. Mr.

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Carroll offered to examine the number of troops now being supported and trained under MAP and submit a report to the Group at the next meeting.

During Mr. Bell's review of the AID programs, he pointed out that the Thai government does not seem to have developed the same sense of urgency that the U.S. believes is necessary to cope with the increasing threat. He observed that if our joint programs are to be effective, Thai cooperation must be more forthcoming. The Chairman agreed that we must make every effort to increase cooperation by the Thai government, and he will discuss this matter with our Ambassador to Thailand while he is in Washington.

Mr. Bell informed the Group that it is now agreed to proceed with the Feeder Road Program, based on Thai standards, for the first two high priority roads. However, it is planned to inform the Thai government that these standards will not necessarily apply to other road programs now under consideration. Mr. Bell reported that virtually all the police equipment ordered in FY 62 has been delivered in Thailand or is enroute. On his own analysis of the procurement system, he recognizes the need for improved communication with the field and an aggressive follow-up procedure both in the field and Washington.

The proposal to provide a portable radio transmitter for Thailand for use during the period prior to the installation of permanent transmitters was discussed by the Group. It was brought out that the Army will have a portable transmitter available that could be utilized for this purpose. The Group agreed that this matter should be referred to the responsible departments for consideration, and they should report on their findings at the next meeting.

3. Central American Internal Security Meeting

Mr. Cottrell reviewed with the Group the results of the recent ministerial meeting in Managua. He concluded that the meeting resulted in the preparation of a sound set of resolutions, which should be of value in efforts to control subversive activities in Central America. General Krulak stressed the evident desire of the participants from Central America to get something done, without their efforts being conditional upon U.S. help. Mr. Cottrell believed that this breakthrough in Central America can set the pattern to enable us to move forward in similar type activities in South America.

In response to Mr. Bundy's question, Mr. Martin stated that various alternatives are now being explored to follow through on indicated U.S. actions resulting from this meeting.

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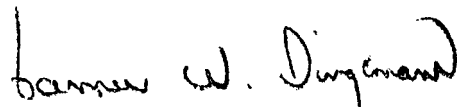
4. Internal Defense Plan for Bolivia

Mr. Martin reviewed with the Group the current situation in Bolivia pointing out conditions which made the preparation of an internal defense plan desirable. He observed that the plan as submitted includes a wide variety of projects that go beyond internal security and in some cases are of marginal utility. After discussing various ways of treating the plan, the Group agreed that the plan should be returned to State for refinement, deletion of projects not relevant to internal defense, and restatement of programs in order of priority. The plan should be resubmitted to the Group in four-weeks time in form ready for definitive approval.

The Chairman reported that a State intelligence evaluation indicated that only a small number of Czech arms were reaching militia groups in the country. The Director of Central Intelligence stated that so far these arms have not significantly affected the internal security situation in the country. It was agreed that all agencies should keep this matter under close scrutiny.

Miscellaneous

The Chairman mentioned Embassy Caracas telegram 1030, March 27, which stated the desire of the Venezuelan Government to have an expert assigned to give advice on measures to prevent bank robberies. Alternatives are now being explored with the FBI and AID to determine the availability of such an expert.


James W. Dingeman
Executive Secretary

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